

ÉCOLE EDWARDS ELEMENTARY FAMILY EXPRESS

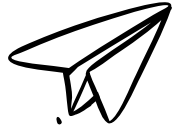
Monthly School News September 2025

<https://edwards.rockyview.ab.ca/>



WELCOME
• BACK •
TO
School

September



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to a new school year. As we begin this journey together, I want to acknowledge that we return in a time of change and uncertainty. Yet, what remains constant is the strength of our learning community. Here at Edwards, we care for one another, support one another, and grow together. This year, let's lean on those values as we face challenges, embrace new opportunities, and continue building a safe and nurturing environment for every student.

I am so grateful to walk alongside you in this season of learning and discovery. Let's make this year one of resilience, kindness, and shared success.

With care and optimism,
Ms. Rachelle Prud'Homme

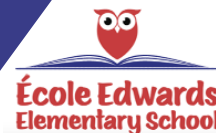


Celebrations this month:

- Welcome Open House BBQ and Welcome Back Assembly!
- Student learning assessments, goal setting, and support plans.
- Terry Fox Annual Run & Walk
- First School Council Meeting with parents for the year on Sept 18 6pm
- Truth & Reconciliation Week special learning activities, and presentation



FAMILY EXPRESS



Learning SPOTLIGHT



Bring
Toonies
for Terry

Friday September 19th is our Terry Fox Run



“ I WANTED TO SET AN
EXAMPLE THAT WOULD NEVER
BE FORGOTTEN.

Terry Fox

Terry Fox represented the best that Canadians have to offer. He was an example of courage, humility, determination, and perseverance. From a young age he exemplified these attributes that made him an inspiration for not only Canada, but the entire world.

You've probably been involved in the School Run or Terry Fox Run for a couple of years now, or maybe you are new to the experience. Whatever your level of previous involvement, the time is now to show your spirit and join the movement. Our next generation of students will be the ones to continue Terry's fight and lead this worthy cause towards his dream of a world without cancer.

Sept. 22-30 is Truth & Reconciliation Week



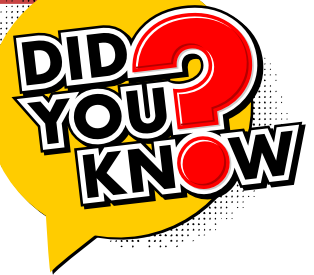
EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Every September we take time to honour Canada's Indigenous families, the survivors, and the lost children to residential schools. We take time during Truth & Reconciliation Week to recognize Canada's devastating past and the legacy of residential schools.

There was a time in Canadian history when Indigenous children were forced to go to school and they were not able to speak their language, practice their culture, or wear any clothing or regalia that represented who they were. There were also other horrible truths from this time, making Canadians reflect and reconcile our past.

LEARNING SUPPORT TEAMS At Edwards School

At Edwards School, every child matters, and we strive to help students discover their unique potential even when they have challenges, difficulties, or obstacles. Sometimes school and learning can be tough, and sometimes there can be barriers to learning, which is why we have a team to support classroom teachers and students. In addition to our learning teams, we have literacy and numeracy coaches for French and English: Elisha Danielson and Meghan Farrar.



K-3 Learning Team

Siara Rogers

I am thrilled to begin this school year as an Assistant Principal at École Edwards, joining the admin team to support our school. I look forward to building strong relationships with students, families, and staff as we learn and grow together. I will be teaching Kinder Music.



Assistant Principals



Alanna Berger

This is my second year as Assistant Principal of Edwards school. I have been a teacher for 24 years, I have 3 daughters of my own. We are very active in the Ringette community. I will be working with the Grade 4-6 students, and teaching Grade 6 Phys.Ed. and Robotics.

Learning Support Teachers

Marissa Turner

I am excited for a 2nd year at École Edwards! I have been and Educator for over 20 years and specifically with neurodivergent learners for the last 8 years.

I love learning and working collaboratively with students, teachers, and families.



Shelley Worden

I'm so excited to be back for my eighth year at Edwards! Some of you may know me as a Grade 5 teacher, but I'm thrilled to continue as part of the learning support team and having the opportunity to support ALL of our learners!

Jocelynn

I'm thrilled to join the École Edwards CDA team, working with our amazing K-3 students! I'll be supporting their social, emotional, and behavioral growth — and I can't wait to get started!

Child Development Advisors

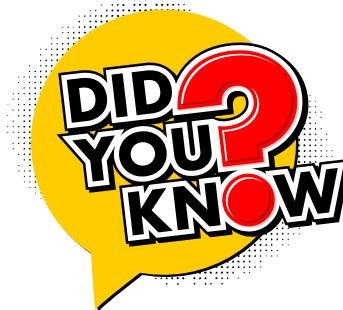


Ashlee Stone

I am delighted to be joining the Grade 4-6 team at Edwards as the CDA! I bring 14 years of experience supporting children and families, with a focus on social-emotional learning and capacity building. I look forward to the year ahead!

Our Specialist Team

At Edwards School, we have a team of specialist teachers to enhance our student programming and support across the school. Literacy and numeracy coaches support our teachers in classrooms to help students, our music teachers also incorporate drama into their theatrical performances, and our physical education specialist teaches all gym classes in grades 1-5. We are proud of our specialist team and all they offer for our staff and students at Edwards.



Literacy & Numeracy Coaches



Meghan Farrar



Elisha Danielson

Our dedicated Literacy and Numeracy Coaches play a vital role in supporting student learning across the school. Working in partnership with classroom teachers, they provide tailored strategies, model effective practices, and deliver targeted interventions where needed. They also monitor school-wide data closely to identify learning trends, celebrate growth, and design supports that meet the needs of every learner. By building teacher capacity and creating a culture of continuous improvement, our coaches ensure that all students are set up for success in reading, writing, and mathematics.

We are so excited to begin another wonderful year of music learning with all of you. Music is a special place where we sing, play, move, and create together, and we can't wait to explore all the ways it helps us learn and grow. Every voice is important in the music room, and we know this year will be filled with fun, teamwork, and lots of creativity. We're also happy to share that Grade 4, 5 AND 6 choir will begin on Tuesdays very soon! Choir is a great opportunity to sing in a group, build confidence, and discover the joy of making music with friends. We look forward to seeing many of you join us. Together, we will work hard, support each other, and celebrate our progress as young musicians and citizens of École Edwards.

Music Teachers



Elaina Friesen



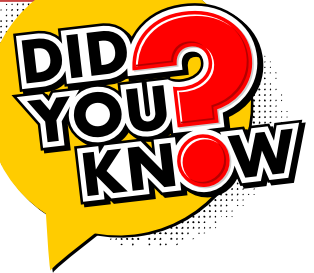
Kelly Simon

Physical Education Teacher



Elisha Danielson

Our Physical Education program is led by a specialist who brings expertise, energy, and a passion for student wellbeing. Lessons are carefully planned to balance skill development, fitness, teamwork, and fun. Students engage in a wide range of activities—from traditional sports and games to fitness challenges and cooperative play—helping them build strength, coordination, and confidence. With a strong focus on resilience, fair play, and positive attitudes toward physical activity, our program encourages students to develop lifelong healthy habits and a love for being active. In addition, Mme Danielson leads intramurals at lunch recess for Grade 4-6 students, giving them opportunities to enjoy friendly competition, build school spirit, and stay active with their peers.



Message from the office team

We are here to help and serve you at the office. We hope our office feels welcome and supportive. We can help with questions about PowerSchool, administering student medication, student documentation updates, and parent contact or address changes.

What is your role as families and parents or guardians?

We see you as playing a very important role in your child's success at school. **When we are working together, on the same page, communicating openly, and supporting one another, amazing things can happen.** Always be in touch with your child's teacher first with any questions or concerns, as they are the leaders for that classroom. Please share with your child's teacher specific strategies, supports, or other information to help them know your child as best as possible. Most importantly, we are all on the same team, working to help your child succeed in their learning.

Office Reminders:

There are many different interfaces that we use to support students and family. Please see our cheat sheet for the important links to our school. We sent this to families in our Welcome Back to School email. Hopefully this will help you to easily access everything.

To reduce disruptions to our students and staff, during learning time, **we kindly ask that parents communicate pick up/drop off and appointments directly with the teacher.** This can be done in the agenda or via email. Please email ecoleedwards@rockyview.ab.ca as well if you wish to ensure full communication. **Safe Arrival is intended to be an attendance tool. It is not intended to advise of appointments or early pick-ups.** If you make a note in Safe Arrival it does not sync with our student information system.

Please keep in mind, it can be challenging for teachers to read and respond to emails during the day as they are working/connecting with students. **We understand that sometimes things come up, if this is the case, please call the office after 9:30 am and prior to 3:00 pm.** This will allow us to get the messages to the students without rushing and missing students as they move through our building at the end of the day.

Administrative Assistants- front office & registrations

Debbie Moravec



Eugenia Perez

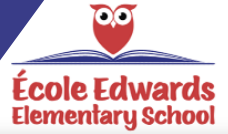


Administrative Assistant - Finance

Wendy Campbell

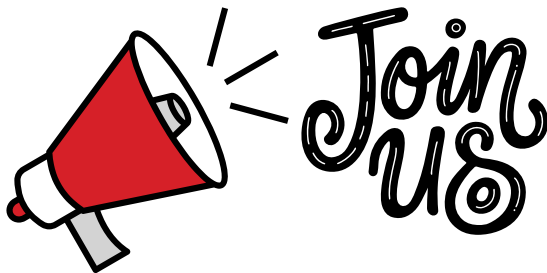
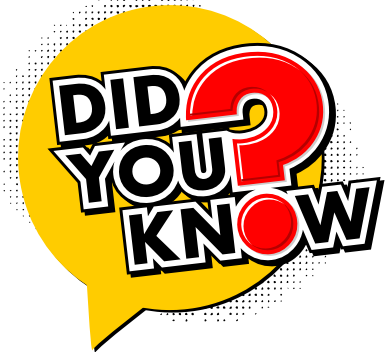


FAMILY EXPRESS



Message from School Council

Our School Council is a group of AMAZING parent volunteers who help to enhance and support our school community by coordinating and organizing fundraising (helping to reduce costs for school activities and field trips), planning school events such as our annual family dance in the spring, cooking hot dogs at our annual Welcome Back BBQ, and staff appreciation, supporting new kindergarten parents, volunteering for hot lunches, and much, much more! Every month they meet with school administration and our school trustee, and all parents are welcome to attend on line or in person. Sign up to be on their on-call volunteer list!



Our FIRST School Council Meeting of the year will be:

Thursday Sept. 18th 6pm

Check your emails for a Zoom link earlier that week, or come in person. All parents are welcome to attend. Every monthly meeting is typically mid-Thursday in the month, and will feature school updates, principal reports, and teacher teams. Every meeting is recorded and posted on Facebook.

Sign up to be on the School Council's volunteer list! Use the QR link or email:

edwards-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca

You will get emailed school events and opportunities for being involved and volunteering. Please note: ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST FOLLOW OUR VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION PROCESS and have documentation such as a criminal record check.



School Goals 2025-2026



School goals start with direction from the RVS 4-Year Education Plan, see the three areas of focus below. Next, we use a variety of data sources from surveys, conversations, observations, and student assessments, to determine our school goals within the three RVS areas of focus.

Our school goals will focus on the same priorities over the course of the next 3-5 years. A full draft version of our school goals will be shared with parents during our first School Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30 pm. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend either in person or online. This is a great opportunity to stay informed and involved with school decision-making.

SCHOOL EDUCATION PLAN UPDATE

1) How Might We engage students in their literacy and numeracy success?

School Goal: Students are performing math and reading at or above grade level.

2) How Might We build student leadership across the school community?

School Goal: Students have a sense of purpose in life, understand their own and other cultures, and are goal oriented, building leadership skills.

3) How might we create inclusive, engaging, and healthy learning opportunities for all students?

School Goal: Students are happy, healthy, feel they belong and are safe, and experience success in learning environments that are inclusive of every learner.

2025-2026 Strategies & Areas of Focus

Embedded Indigenous Perspectives and Ways of Knowing

Goal 1:

Literacy & Numeracy Success

- Continue teaching efforts following RVS Literacy & Numeracy blocks and Framework
- Support students in cross-class and grade groupings
- Collaborative prep time to enhance planning and teaching
- Lit Num resources and journals for writing, word and vocabulary work, and student reflections
- Personal land acknowledgements

Goal 2:

Student Future Leadership

- Continue opportunities for classroom and school-wide student leadership
- Continue teaching efforts in coding, digital citizenship and career learning
- New Gr. 6 CTF (Career and Technology Foundations) classes – including robotics, 3D printing, digital photography, Outdoor Education, and more!
- New School Song!

Goal 3:

Inclusive & Caring Community

- Continue to improve and enhance school systems and efforts toward building a safe and inclusive community
- Additional staff to support student social emotional and academic needs with learning teams
- New PBIS School Matrix, Sports Teams and diversity calendars
- Collaborative problem-solving team meetings

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to follow our school-wide expectations using our PBIS Matrix, at all times in and out of the school, especially during recess. It is important for physical and psychological safety that students learn inclusive play strategies, that their games are non-competitive, that they learn how to problem-solve, and that they do their best as learners and leaders.



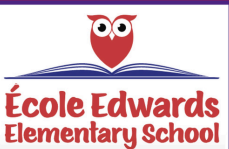
PBIS is our system for encouraging students to be successful as learners and leaders. PBIS stands for Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports.










Essentially, we have 3 school rules that we call expectations :

- We are Kind/ Nous Sommes Gentils
- We are Responsible/ Nous Sommes Responsables
- We are Safe/ Nous Sommes En Sécurité

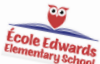
Students are taught the expectations through explicit teaching and modelling. By practicing the expectations, they thrive as learners and leaders, helping to make the school a safe, caring, and supportive place to be.

We encourage families to try having these rules or expectations at home, as well. We use them for solving problems, talking through misunderstandings when there is an argument, and of course celebrating efforts made.



WE ARE KIND	WE ARE RESPONSIBLE	WE ARE SAFE
<p>USE KIND WORDS & VOICE</p> <p>UTILISER UNE VOIX DOUCE ET DES MOTS GENTILS</p> 	<p>OWN YOUR ACTIONS AND WORDS</p> <p>ASSUMER VOS ACTIONS ET PAROLES</p> 	<p>HANDS OFF FEET OFF BODY OFF</p> <p>GARDER SES MAINS ET PIEDS POUR SOI MÊME</p> 
<p>LISTEN TO OTHERS</p> <p>ÉCOUTER LES AUTRES</p> 	<p>FOLLOW DIRECTIONS</p> <p>SUIVRE LES INSTRUCTIONS</p> 	<p>PERSONAL SPACE</p> <p>RESPECTER L'ESPACE PERSONNEL</p> 
<p>HELP OTHERS</p> <p>AIDER LES AUTRES</p> 	<p>RESPECT PEOPLE, PLACES & SPACES</p> <p>RESPECTER LES PERSONNES, ET LES LIEUX</p> 	<p>MOVE SAFELY</p> <p>SE DÉPLACER EN SÉCURITÉ</p> 
NOUS SOMMES GENTILS	NOUS SOMMES RESPONSABLES	NOUS SOMMES EN SÉCURITÉ

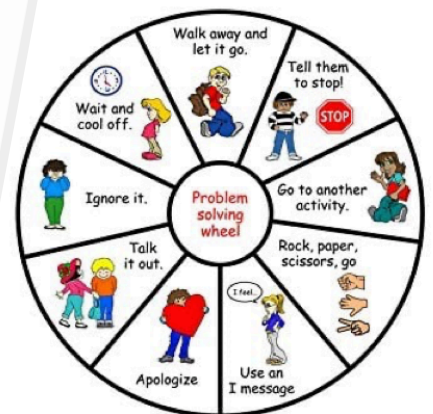




Recess Rules Top 5

- Always be kind and safe. Hands off, feet off. Stop a game if someone is hurt.
- Use a team voting system for game rules.
- Use rock paper scissors to solve a problem or disagreement.
- Always include others and say yes - no competitive games - cooperative only.
- If a student gets a thumbs down, they need to walk with a supervisor

WE BELONG | WE CARE | WE ARE INDEPENDENT | WE DO OUR BEST



PARENT EXPECTATIONS

We see parents as learners and leaders too!

Can we have your help with the following?

- **Safety during drop off and pick up** - slow down in school areas to 30 km/hr, use all marked crosswalks/ do not cross the road without a crosswalk, do not use our staff parking lot as students and families and walking through it, be a role model for safety :)
- **Check your emails** from your child's teacher weekly and the school periodically. Being involved in your child's learning will increase their success.
- **Review our School Handbook, Website, and new policies. Be aware of allergies, scents, and nuts.**
- **Review our school calendar** (all events will be up to date for the year in the coming weeks)
- **Be sure you are aware and understand the NEW Personal Devices Policy** - Cell phones, smart watches, and social media are not permitted in school as legislated by the Alberta government.
- **Volunteer! Just make sure you have a Criminal Record Check**, complete our Volunteer Orientation, and sign a confidentiality form at the office.
- **Join us for School Council Meetings virtually or on Zoom - mid-month on Thursday at 6pm.**
- **Use PBIS at home, too!** Practice, recognize, and reward positive behaviours at home!
- **Check Power School for your child's online assessments and marks monthly**, starting in October until May.
- **You are partners with us in the success of your child's learning.** Build a strong, open, positive relationship with your child's teacher(s).
- **Follow and like us** on Facebook, X or Instagram.



**LATEST
NEWS**

**New this year at
Edwards School!**

**All volunteers will need
to complete our Virtual
Volunteer Orientation.
More details coming
soon to your email.**



SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

Students learn about and practice our emergency procedures throughout the year. All volunteers need to be familiar with our protocols too.

SAFETY FIRST



Refer to your School Emergency Response Plan Quick Reference Guide for complete instructions.

Classroom Summary Emergency Functional Protocols

IF YOU HEAR "LOCK-DOWN" ...

- Direct people to **closest Lock-Down zone/room**. Check emergency maps for locations.
- Lock and secure ALL doors and windows in your Lock-Down zone.
- Take attendance. Do not use Status Cards, unless requested by Incident Commander.
- Barricade door(s) and take cover, as appropriate.
- If possible, cover all windows. Turn off lights and remain quiet.
- Keep away from windows and doors, and out of sight lines.
- **Do not allow anyone in or out of room until Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR and doors are unlocked by Inc**
- Maintain situational awareness and be prepared (e.g., run-hide-fight) as good judgment dictates.



Threat of Violence
INSIDE Building

IF YOU HEAR "HOLD AND SECURE"

- All exterior doors/windows to be locked:
 - o Class in session - continue activities.
 - o Class outside - return to building, continue activities.
 - o Class not in session - direct students to classroom.
- Take attendance, report status using Status Cards.
- Security Team checks and locks all exterior doors.
- Keep away from exterior windows and doors.
- Wait for instructions from Incident Commander.
- Do not allow anyone in/out of building until Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR.
- If fire alarm goes off, prepare for EVACUATION.



Threat of Violence
OUTSIDE Building

IF YOU HEAR "SHELTER-IN-PLACE"

- Direct all persons into designated areas. Check for hazards.
- If outside building - return to building.
- Take attendance, report status using Status Cards.
- Close windows and doors.
- If instructed by Incident Commander or fire alarm:
 - o Place plastic sheeting or garbage bags over windows.
 - o Close outside air vents. Turn off cooling, heating, and fans.
 - o Cover cracks under doors with damp cloth.
- Keep away from windows and doors.
- Do not allow anyone to leave designated area until Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR or unless you receive permission.
- Prepare for possible EVACUATION or DROP-COVER-HOLD.



No Threat of Violence
Safer Inside

CONTINUE PROTOCOL UNTIL YOU HEAR ALL-CLEAR

- Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR when safe.
- Continue the Functional Protocol until Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR.
- If you suspect incident may not be over, continue protocol.



Be Watchful and
Prepared to Act

IF YOU HEAR "ON-ALERT" without any additional instructions...

- Direct all persons to their classroom; direct to next class if during a break.
- If outside, return to building.
- Take attendance, report status using Status Cards.
- Wait for further instructions from Incident Commander.
- Restrict movement in/out of room until Incident Commander gives ALL-CLEAR.
- Prepare for other protocols.



Safer Outside

IF YOU HEAR "EMERGENCY EVACUATION" or Fire Alarm...

- Visually scan adjacent hallway for hazards; then select a suitable route.
- Instruct students to exit room in an orderly fashion, using a single file.
- Direct first person to hold door open until entire class is through, then fall in line.
- Remind lead students to watch for hazards en route and to lightly touch doors before opening - if door is hot, do not open it and call for staff.
- Count students as students exit room.
- Ensure everyone is out. Leave room last.
- Take Classroom Folder and/or Kit, leave lights in current state and close door.
- Place Status Card on floor adjacent to room door, ensure it is visible from hallway.
- Upon arrival at Student Assembly Area, situate students so staff can see others.
- Take attendance.
- Display Status Card. Report missing/extra persons with Student Accountability Form.
- Remain with students until relieved of duties or Buddy Team member takes over class.
- Do not return to building until Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR.



Protect Vitals

IF YOU HEAR "DROP-COVER-HOLD"...

- All persons drop under desk/sturdy table.
- Get down onto knees, curl chest to knees, clasp hand behind neck, put face down.
- Stay under cover, with head down between knees. Cover face and eyes.
- Hold onto desk. If the desk moves, move with it.
- Prepare for possible SHELTER-IN-PLACE or EVACUATION.
- If outdoors, move to a clear area away from trees, buildings, sports or playground apparatus (e.g., basketball hoops) or downed electrical wires and poles.

For people confined to wheelchairs:

- Remain in chair, set brake, and hold onto wheelchair.
- If possible, lean forward so head is lower than back of wheelchair.

HOW TO USE STATUS CARDS

- DO NOT use Status Cards during Lock-Down, unless requested by Incident Commander.
- Display appropriate Card under door, in exterior window and at Assembly Area.
- Accompany Blue Card with a Student Accountability Form.



Take the Quick Reference Guide Training Module on Hour-Zero Online (www.hour-zero.com) to learn more.

WHO TO CONTACT...

If danger is imminent CALL 9-1-1 and then contact the School Office.

If situation does not require First Responder assistance, contact your School Office.

FAMILY EXPRESS

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Labour Day (No classes).</u>	2 <u>Kindergarten Parent Boo-Hoo Coffee & Tea</u> <u>Staggered Entry for Last Names A - L</u> <u>First Day of Classes</u>	3 <u>Kindergarten Parent Boo-Hoo Coffee and Tea</u> <u>Staggered Entry for Last Names M - Z</u>	4 <u>All Students Attend today.</u> <u>RVS Board of Trustees Meeting</u> 10:00 am	5 <u>No Kindergarten today.</u>	6
7	8 <u>Welcome Back Assemblies Today.</u>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <u>Picture Day!</u>	16	17	18 <u>School Council Meeting</u> 6:00 pm <u>RVS Board of Trustees Meeting</u> 10:00 am	19 <u>Terry Fox Run Today!</u>	20
21	22 <u>Truth & Reconciliation Week (Aug 22-30).</u>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <u>Professional Learning Day (No classes).</u>	30 <u>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No classes).</u>				

For the most recent updates, please see our School Website calendar online.